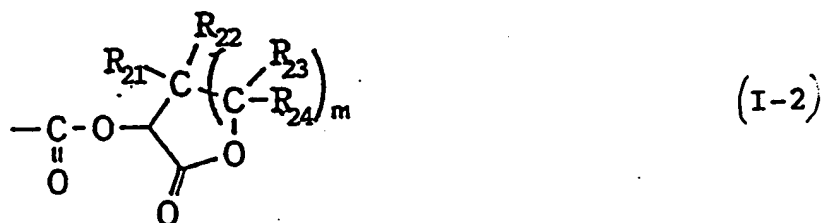


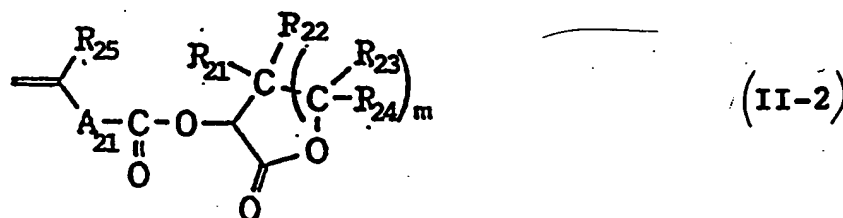
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decomposed by action of an acid to increase solubility of the resin in an alkali solution, and a compound generating an acid by irradiation of an active light ray or radiation:



wherein R<sub>21</sub> to R<sub>24</sub>, which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group; and m represents 1 or 2.

7. (Amended) The positive photoresist composition according to claim 6, wherein said resin is a resin which contains repeating structure units corresponding to a monomer represented by the following general formula (II-2) and is decomposed by action of an acid to increase solubility of the resin in an alkali solution:



wherein R<sub>21</sub> to R<sub>24</sub> and m have the same meanings as given in claim 6; R<sub>25</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; and A<sub>21</sub> represents one group selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an alkylene group, a substituted alkylene group, an ether group, a thioether group, a

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carbonyl group, an ester group, an amido group, a sulfonamido group, a urethane group and a urea group, or a combination of two or more of them.

8. (Amended) The positive photoresist composition according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said resin further contains repeating structure units each having an alicyclic hydrocarbon moiety.

9. (Amended) The positive photoresist composition according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said resin further contains repeating structure units each having a group which is decomposed by action of an acid to increase solubility in an alkali developing solution.

Please add the following new claim:

--20. The positive photoresist composition according to claim 8, wherein said resin further contains repeating structure units each having a group which is decomposed by action of an acid to increase solubility of the resin in an alkali developing solution.--

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 6-9 and 20 will be pending. The Examiner of the parent application had indicated that prosecution of claims 6-9 and 20 was going to be suspended due to a potential interference, and he suggested that they be refiled in a continuation application to deal with the potential interference. Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion and have filed the present continuation application.